

Appl. No. 09/778,682
Amdt. Dated March 14, 2006
Reply To Office Action Of December 14, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS


Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-6 and 9-42 will be pending.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesies extended to Applicant's attorney Lara Northrop, Esq. during the telephone interview on March 6, 2006 conducted with Examiner Steven Paul Sax. As discussed with Examiner Sax, independent Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 20, 25, 26, 39 and 40 have each been amended to recite, in relevant part, that the panoramic visual images recording device comprises "a viewing direction selectable by a user". The above-listed independent claims have also been amended to recite, in relevant part, that the associated directional sound capturing device is "capable of capturing sound in response to the selected viewing direction". Basis for these amendments can be found, for example, in the Applicant's specification at pages 4, lines 1-3 and page 5, line 29 through page 6, line 2.

Claims 1-6 and 9-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Driscoll '815, Windle '117 and Baker '957. As discussed during the March 6, 2006 telephone interview, and acknowledged by Examiner Sax, the amendments to independent Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 20, 25, 26, 39 and 40, overcome the rejection under Driscoll '815, Windle '117 and Baker '957.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that Claims 1-6 and 9-42 are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance for this application is respectfully requested. In the event that any outstanding matters remain in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (412) 263-4362 to discuss such matters.

Respectfully submitted,


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